

Message Text

SECRET

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72

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-11 ISO-00 AF-10 MMS-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 ACDA-19 SAJ-01

OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /150 W
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R 051530Z FEB 74

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5240

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T CAIRO 0586

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR UK IO

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA

REF: STATE 22772

1. FOLLOWING RECEIPT REFTEL, I CHECKED WITH UK AMBASSADOR ADAMS, WHO HAD SIMILAR WORD FROM LONDON. I THEN TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY DURING A MEETING WITH FAHMY LATER IN THE MORNING TO BRIEF THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON THE DIEGO GARCIA NAVAL EXPANSION PLANS. IN DOING SO, I DELIBERATELY DID NOT GIVE HIM FULL DETAILS OF US RATIONALE AS SET FORTH STATE 19914 AS AMENDED BY TWO SUBSEQUENT TELEGRAMS, BUT GAVE HIM AN ABBREVIATED VERSION OF WHAT WE ARE DOING. I EXPLAINED WE WERE GIVING HIM THIS ADVANCE NOTICE AS A COURTESY TO GOE. IT WAS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT PDRY OR OTHER RADICAL ARAB GOVERNMENTS MIGHT RAISE THE MATTER IN THE OVERALL ARAB CONTEXT AND WE WANTED OUR EGYPTIAN FRIENDS NOT TO BE CAUGHT BY SURPRISE. IN RESPONSE FAHMY'S COMMENT THAT WE WERE BUILDING A NAVAL BASE AT DIEGO GARCIA, I SAID NEWLY PLANNED INSTALLATIONS WILL BE NO MORE THAN MODEST NAVAL "FACILITIES". HE LAUGHED. AS ADAMS HAD ASKED

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ME TO DO, I ALSO INDICATED THAT USG IS BUILDING THESE

NEW INSTALLATIONS WITH HMG'S FULL CONCURRENCE.

2. FAHMY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION THAT WE HAD TOLD GOE ABOUT THIS. HE SAID WE CAN COUNT ON PDRY ATTEMPTING TO RAISE SUBJECT, AND INFORMATION I HAD GIVEN HIM SHOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR EGYPTIANS TO HANDLE MATTER IF IT ARISES. HE ASKED, HOWEVER, THAT WE NOT RPT NOT ANNOUNCE THAT GOE HAS BEEN APPRISED OF THESE DIEGO GARCIA PLANS.

3. HAVE INFORMED ADAMS THAT I HAVE TAKEN NECESSARY ACTION. PURSUANT DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS, AM ALSO SENDING HIM PERTINENT RATIONALE AND QUESTIONS/ANSWERS DOCUMENTS AS WELL AS CONTINGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT.
EILTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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